

March 27, 1974

and owe them an adoption of the Schmit amendment and I call for the question.

PRESIDENT: Question's been called for. Does the Chair see five hands? I'll wait a minute. Thank you. Question is, shall the debate now close. DeCamp moved the motion to close debate. The question is, do you want to close debate. All those in favor of closing debate of the issue right now, will vote aye. All those opposed will vote no.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Is that a debatable item?

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: It closed debate.

PRESIDENT: This is to close....on the Goodrich, Schmit amendment. I'm sorry.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Is the motion debatable or not?

PRESIDENT: Not to close debate, no. It's not debatable?

SENATOR CARPENTER: It's not debatable?

PRESIDENT: No.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT: The motion is, do you want to close debate. Those in favor vote aye. Those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Clerk will record. Read the results.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 19 nays.

PRESIDENT: Very good. The motion to close debate fails. Now Senator Carpenter and then Senator Duis.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now, Mr. President, if there's an expert in this Body on public power, it's me. And what has been said is not so. They always bring up this bugaboo about increase in rates on interest. And that's a lot of nonsense. And they're not going to increase the rates  $\frac{1}{2}\%$ , why, because the State of Nebraska stands back of these bond issues to pay every cent if the power districts don't. And the very intent of the bonds requires, for example, that they have to have the rate sufficient to do what the bond indentures says it has to do. Now what's the crux of this whole thing to over-simplify it? The Nebraska Public Power District or Company refuses, absolutely refuses, to allow anybody to participate or supervise or look at their rate structure. They said to everybody, you join us, you enter into a contract for 25 years or whatever the time might be, and you take our word for it that this rate structure is fair. That's unreasonable. I've tried for years and that's finally the way I left them. They conned me long enough. They don't mean what they say. They want the status quo. They don't want to do anything beyond that which they want to do. They're a power within themselves. Now there is no reason I can see why the City of Lincoln as an illustration can't buy power from anybody that they want to and there's no reason why the rates in order to haul this electricity shouldn't be supervised and accepted by someone beyond those who set the rates. Now they say as an illustration we want you to sign up for 25 years. You follow us blindly. We're nice people and that they are. But we're not talking about that. We're